



**Vatnik Soup** @P\_Kallioniemi

Apr 13, 2026 · 20 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/204367669332685186](#)

---

In today's Vatnik Soup, we introduce Yanis Varoufakis, a Greek economist and politician. He's best known for rising to power at the height of the Greek debt crisis, not solving anything but endearing himself to the left, and using his fame to promote Russian imperialism.

1/20



Born in 1961 in Athens, Varoufakis studied economics in the UK and built an academic career in Australia, the US, and Europe. His early work focused on game theory, political economy, and critiques of capitalism.

2/20

## Yanis Varoufakis: How I became an erratic Marxist



Yanis Varoufakis  
Wed 18 Feb 2015 07:00 CET



Yanis Varoufakis. Illustration by Ellie Foreman-Peck

Before he entered politics, Yanis Varoufakis, the iconoclastic Greek finance minister at the centre of the latest eurozone standoff, wrote this searing account of European capitalism and how the left can learn from Marx's mistakes

Presenting himself as the fearless, unorthodox economist willing to confront the EU's "neoliberal" elites, he rose to prominence during Greece's debt crisis. At its height in 2015, he was appointed finance minister under the left-wing Syriza government of Alexis Tsipras.

3/20

## Greek PM Alexis Tsipras appoints radical economist to new government

Cabinet ministers announced, with economics post going to radical who described austerity as 'fiscal waterboarding'

● [Live blog: Greek prime minister chooses new cabinet](#)

Jon Henley in Athens

Tue 27 Jan 2015 16:11 CET



One of Yanis Varoufakis's top priorities will be to renegotiate the terms of Greece's €240bn bailout deal. Photograph: Alkis Konstantinidis/Reuters

The anti-bailout government of Greece's new leftist prime minister, **Alexis Tsipras**, has been announced, with the post of economics minister - chief negotiator with the country's international creditors - going to a radical economist who has described austerity programmes as "fiscal waterboarding".

He resigned after six months with a controversial record. According to Tsipras himself, Varoufakis was more interested in testing his theories and promoting his books than actually fixing the Greek economy. Even Russia had refused to help at that time.

## Former Greek PM Tsipras savages 'celebrity' ex-finance minister Varoufakis in memoir

Alexis Tsipras says that during debt crisis Yanis Varoufakis was more interested in promoting his books



▶ Alexis Tsipras (right) with Yanis Varoufakis in 2015. Photograph: Orestis Panagiotou/EPA

**Helena Smith in Athens**

Tue 25 Nov 2025 06:00 CET

**Yanis Varoufakis, the firebrand economist** who rose to fame at the height of Greece's debt drama, was not only egotistical but ultimately more interested in testing out his game theories on the nation than winning its battle to keep afloat.

So writes the former prime minister **Alexis Tsipras** in his newly released memoir, *Ithaki*, as the once radical leftwing leader, sparing no punches, seeks, 10 years later, to put the record straight.

"He was, in reality, more of a celebrity and less of an economist," recalled the 51-year-old, who described handpicking the maverick as his finance minister because of his international reputation and "extremely attractive" skills as a public orator.

“I wanted to send the message of hard negotiation, but I underestimated the human factor. Very quickly, Varoufakis turned from being an asset into a negative protagonist. Not only could our potential allies not stand him, neither could his own colleagues.”

In a chronicle of events that has been quick to send ripples through Greece, Tsipras, who appears bent on staging a political comeback **two years after renouncing the leadership of the Syriza party**, said it was clear the Greek Australian academic had a personal agenda that included promoting his books.

Negotiations to stave off bankruptcy were “not just a way of achieving a better deal for the country. They were an experiment, an historic opportunity to prove the truth of his economic theories,” Tsipras wrote.

During rollercoaster talks that pitted the two men against Germany’s late economic tsar, Wolfgang Schauble and other fiscal hawks, **Greece** came perilously close to exiting the eurozone.

At stake was not only the country’s future but the punishing austerity policies demanded in return for rescue loans from international creditors that Tsipras and his **Syriza** government had vowed to cancel.

Efforts to find funds elsewhere, including a desperate plea to the Kremlin to buy Greek government bonds, fell on stony ground, with even Putin making clear that Athens should find accommodation with its EU partners.

Helping the indebted country would be tantamount to throwing money in the trash-can, the Russian leader is reputed to have told his Greek counterpart in Moscow.

“I wanted an honourable agreement within the eurozone,” Tsipras wrote, “but we also didn’t hide the fact that we wanted radical change in Europe, that we wanted to stop the imposition of the economic absurdity of neoliberalism not only in Greece but from one end of the continent to the other.”

Varoufakis is active and popular in progressive and socialist circles (some of whom are not entirely vatniks and might really need to clean house a bit here): a co-founder of Progressive International, with the support of everyone’s favorite tankie, Noam Chomsky...

**Progressive International**

---



PROGRESSIVE  
INTERNATIONAL

<b>Abbreviation</b>	PI
<b>General Secretary</b>	<a href="#">David R. K. Adler</a> Varsha Gandikota-Nellutla
<b>Founded</b>	11 May 2020
<b>Ideology</b>	<a href="#">Progressivism</a> <a href="#">Internationalism</a> <a href="#">Anti-imperialism</a> <a href="#">Anti-capitalism</a> <a href="#">Socialism</a> <a href="#">Anti-Zionism</a>
<b>Political position</b>	<a href="#">Left-wing</a> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Colors</b>	 red and black
<b>Slogan</b>	<i>Internationalism or Extinction</i>
<b>Purpose</b>	To unite, organize, and mobilize progressive forces around the world
<b>Region served</b>	Worldwide
	<b>Website</b>
	<a href="https://progressive.international">progressive.international</a> 



... he's also a Fellow at Bernie Sanders' Institute, in the good company of other vatniks such as Cornel West and Jeffrey Sachs, united with Bernie (previously critical of Putin) to "combat the rise of authoritarianism around the globe". You can't make this shit up really.



Sen. Bernie Sanders  
@SenSanders



The U.S. and our allies must impose severe sanctions on Vladimir Putin and his fellow oligarchs. At a time when thousands may die as a result of his war, Putin, one of the richest people in the world, should not be allowed to enjoy the billions he stole from the Russian people.

**SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS**  
*United States Senator for Vermont*



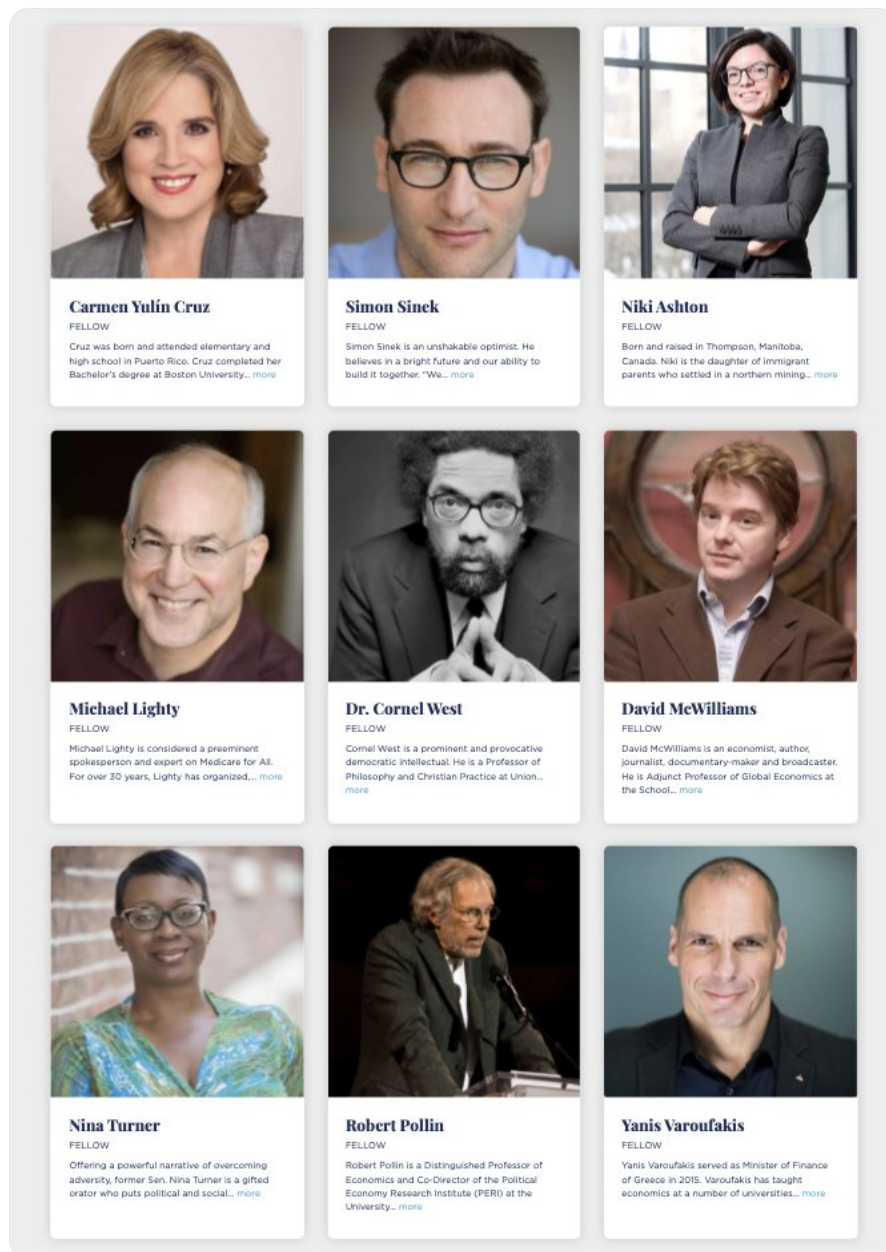
## **NEWS: Sanders Statement on Russian Invasion of Ukraine**

*BURLINGTON, Vt., Feb. 24 – Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) Thursday issued the following statement after Russia invaded Ukraine:*

“The Russian invasion of Ukraine that the world is witnessing today is a blatant violation of international law and of basic human decency. It may well kill thousands and displace millions. It could plunge Europe into long-term economic and political instability.

“The United States and our allies must impose severe sanctions on Vladimir Putin and his fellow oligarchs. At a time when thousands may die as a result of his war, Putin, one of the richest people in the world, should not be allowed to enjoy the billions he stole from the Russian people. The United States must also work closely with international partners to provide humanitarian relief for the Ukrainian people.”

7:21 PM · Feb 24, 2022



Yanis is the “anti-imperialism of idiots” kind of vatnik (coined by Syrian activist Leila al-Shami): the supposed leftist who’s always criticizing Western imperialism but reveals a naïveté amounting to bad faith when it comes to Russian imperialism.



Vatnik Soup

@P\_Kallioniemi · Follow



In this 5th Debunk of the Day, we'll discuss something that sounds great in theory, but was completely turned upside-down by the tankie kind of vatnik: anti-imperialism. More consistent anti-imperialists call this the "anti-imperialism of idiots".  
1/5



12:35 PM · Feb 5, 2026



1.1K Reply Copy link

Read 7 replies



***I'M AN ANTI IMPERIALIST***



***BE HONEST***



***I'M BEING HONEST!  
I HATE IMPERIALISTS!***



***WHAT ABOUT  
CHINA AND RUSSIA?***



***OK I SUPPORT CHINESE AND RUSSIAN  
IMPERIALISM BUT OPPOSE AMERICAN  
AND WESTERN***

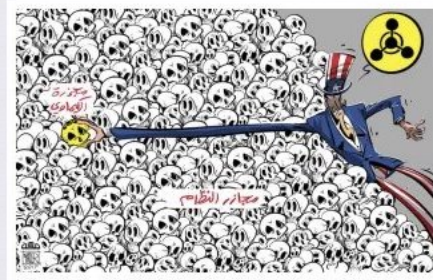


***THANK YOU***

## The 'anti-imperialism' of idiots

April 14, 2018 by Leila Al Shami

Once more the western 'anti-war' movement has awoken to mobilise around Syria. This is the third time since 2011. The first was when Obama contemplated striking the Syrian regime's military capability (but didn't) following chemical attacks on the Ghouta in 2013, considered a 'red line'. The second time was when Donald Trump ordered a strike which hit an empty regime military base in response to chemical attacks on Khan Sheikhoun in 2017. And today, as the US, UK and France take limited military action (targeted strikes on regime military assets and chemical weapons facilities) following a chemical weapons attack in Douma which killed at least 34 people, including many children who were sheltering in basements from bombing.



Cartoon criticizing selective outrage which only applies to chemical attacks, by Yaser Ahmad

The first thing to note from the three major mobilisations of the western 'anti-war' left is that they have little to do with ending the war. More than half a million Syrians have been killed since 2011. The vast majority of civilian deaths have been through the use of conventional weapons and 94 per cent of these victims were killed by the Syrian-Russian-Iranian alliance. There is no outrage or concern feigned for this war, which followed the regime's brutal crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy demonstrators. There's no outrage when barrel bombs, chemical weapons and napalm are dropped on democratically self-organized communities or target hospitals and rescue workers. Civilians are expendable; the military capabilities of a genocidal, fascist regime are not. In fact the slogan 'Hands off Syria' really means 'Hands off Assad' and support is often given for Russia's military intervention. This was evident yesterday at a demonstration organized by Stop the War UK where a number of regime and Russian flags were shamefully on display.

He's also the kind of leftist who still admires Lenin, who like Stalin starved Ukrainians to death. And this is where he gets angry at Putin: not the bombings, the kidnappings of children, the murders of Ukrainians, not even the murders of Russians, no, a comparison to Lenin.8/20



**Yanis Varoufakis** ✓

@yanisvaroufakis

Putin has outdone himself: He dared compare Prigozhin to Lenin, making the absurd comparison of Wagner's mutiny to the Bolsheviks' principled stance against the inhuman WW1. A reminder to leftists who erred into tolerating Putin: He always hated the Left!

After perfunctory condemnations of Putin, Varoufakis's specialty is to "just imagine" what Putin has been doing or trying to do for years, such as targeting Zelenskyy or bombing hospitals. At this point, it's not naïveté, it's outright support for Russia's genocidal invasion.9/20



**Yanis Varoufakis** @yanisvaroufakis · Nov 17

Just for one second dare to imagine the West's reaction if Putin's soldiers had invaded a packed Ukrainian hospital, to "denazify" it, prevented staff from treating thousands of injured people - mostly kids -, blown up its water pipers and brought in zero medical supplies.

**Readers added context they thought people might want to know**

Russian forces directly and multiple times bombed the Mariupol's Maternity Hospital No 3, without any advance warning and not using low-yield weapons. The bombings also happened during a ceasefire for civilian evacuation.

[en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariupol\\_...](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariupol...)  
[aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/9/...](https://aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/9/...)  
[telegraph.co.uk/world-news/202...](https://telegraph.co.uk/world-news/202...)



**Yanis Varoufakis** @yanisvaroufakis · Oct 18, 2023

Just imagine the headlines if Putin had bombed a hospital in Kharkiv killing 500 people, many of them kids, and then blamed it on the Ukrainians... Nothing makes Vlad happier than watching the West's touching attempts to overtake his callous cynicism...

**Readers added context they thought people might want to know**

Putin did bomb a hospital in Mariupol and then tried to blame it on Ukraine: [eu.usatoday.com/story/news/fac...](https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/fac...)

There were over 700 recorded attacks on health facilities and workers in year since Russia invasion in Ukraine: [bmj.com/content/380/bm...](https://bmj.com/content/380/bm...)



**Yanis Varoufakis** @yanisvaroufakis · Jan 3

What a great day for Vladimir Putin! I can picture him in the Kremlin, watching the EU & the UK play dumb while Trump trashes Int. Law, their media reporting Maduro's abduction as an 'arrest'. I bet he's thinking: Should I also detain Zelensky and subject him to Russian justice?

**Readers added context they thought people might want to know**

Russia has attempted to kill Zelenskyy on numerous occasions.

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassina...](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassina...)



Varoufakis offers no solution to those who suffer under the oppression or occupation of anti-Western regimes. He of course is privileged enough to live in the West, and can enjoy the luxury of complaining about it and lecturing everyone else from his wealth and comfort.

10/20

> Economy

## Yanis Varoufakis gives talks for just \$60,000 + all expenses paid

*Would you like Yanis Varoufakis to be a keynote speaker at an event? You can hire him for \$60,000 as long as you pay for his business class air travel and first-class accommodation*



Newsroom  
October 26 10:59

Former finance minister Yanis Varoufakis may well maintain that he doesn't get paid even for the use of his taxi when he travels abroad, however the truth is that he receives 60,000 dollars (53,000 euros) for talks on the disastrous state of the Greek economy.

At least, that is the fee that Proto Thema was able to negotiate with Tatjana Marinko from the London Speaker Bureau operating on his behalf. Pretending to be holding an event in need of Yanis, Proto Thema's journalist Frixos Drakontidis set about negotiating terms for his speech at a conference in New York that was willing to pay \$50,000. Here is the e-mail that Proto Thema got back via Oman:

### Yanis Varoufakis (MeRA25)

MeRA25 leader Yanis Varoufakis declared a total income of 265,000 euros in 2019 and has 128,768 euros in deposits in a Swiss bank and small amounts in Greek banks. He owns one residence and two agricultural plots and his wife owns one office and other real estate, including three agricultural plots. The couple own nine vehicles in total.

BY THE NATIONAL HERALD • JUN 24, 2022

## Greek Solution Leader Wealthiest Politician, Varoufakis Next

ATHENS - As required, Greek political leaders filed their wealth declarations to indicate how much money they make and their sources and at the head of the pack was Kyriakos Velopoulos, leader of the ultra-nationalist Greek Solution party.

Known for shilling products on TV - including hair growth tonic even though he has thinning hair - and once-provocative statements before he toned down after getting into Parliament, he declared an income of 239,358 euros (\$252,388.65.) His wife made 55,804 (\$58,841.97.)

How they made their money wasn't given in a report by Kathimerini which listed only the incomes published by a parliamentary committee of 1,068 politicians and other public servants for the year 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and it showed many were well off indeed.



Next was MeRA25 leader Yanis Varoufakis who declared a total income of 195,851 euros (\$206,513.13) while his wife declared an income of 2,708 euros (\$2855.42.) He had been finance minister for the former ruling Radical Left SYRIZA before they booted him for being too provocative.

On Afghanistan, he came up with the astonishing “hang in there, sisters”. In January, while the Iranian regime was slaughtering protesters, his “Progressive” International explained that that’s the good kind of oppression, the non-Western kind, so nothing to worry about.

11/20

## Taliban allows men to beat their wives as long as they don't break bones or leave open wounds

UPDATED MAR 2, 2026

By  Mick Krever,  Isobel Yeung



An Afghan woman walks out of a cell inside the women's section of the Pul-e-Charkhi prison in Kabul, Afghanistan, on September 23, 2021. (Felipe Dana/AP/File)

Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have issued a draconian decree that makes sodomy punishable by death and allows men to beat their wives so long as they don't break bones or leave visible, lasting wounds.

Human rights campaigners have decried the move as "devastating" and warned that women's recourse to justice would be further curtailed.

"The men have the right to rule completely the women," rights activist Mahbouba Seraj told CNN from Kabul. "His word is the word of law – that's it."



**Yanis Varoufakis**  @yanisvaroufakis · Aug 15, 2021

On the day liberal-neocon imperialism was defeated once and for all, DiEM25's thoughts are with the women of Afghanistan. Our solidarity probably means little to them but it is what we can offer - for the time being. Hang in there sisters!

1.8K


2.6K

1.6K



**Dr. Phil Hackemann**  @PhilHackemann

„Thoughts and prayers“ don't save any woman from being raped and murdered by this terror regime. Only American soldiers, tanks and drones did so for the past 20 years. But because of people like you, they're gone now – and the women have thus become defenseless. Shame on you.



PROGRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL

Workers at the South Pars Gas Refinery. Photo: Dr. Helyeh Doutaghi

### 1. The Police

Understanding working-class sovereignty requires careful attention to how the South Pars workers engage with and relate to state power, particularly with the police.

In much of Western political thought and within organizing cultures and spaces shaped by settler-colonial policing, the police are correctly understood as inherently violent institutions designed to repress movements in sustaining the capitalist imperial order. This understanding, while grounded in material histories of racialized and class violence and colonial and imperial repression, becomes a-historical and Eurocentric when universalized.

In the imperial countries, the police function as the domestic arm of the empire. They suppress dissent, criminalize resistance, and enforce accumulation through violence particularly against Black, Indigenous, and other Peoples of Color. I have witnessed this firsthand — from New Haven police trained by the Israeli military violently dismantling Palestinian solidarity encampments at Yale University, to coordinated crackdowns on anti-war organizing in Ottawa. Policing is inseparable from imperial and colonial violence.

In Iran, the Law Enforcement Command exists within a radically different context: a state born of popular revolution, subjected to decades of sanctions, assassinations, sabotage, and overt military threats. Crucially, it faces sustained attempts at regime change operations and color revolution tactics aimed at disarming the state internally by delegitimizing its capacity to maintain order.

There are of course voices on the left who disagree with his embrace of Russian imperialism, especially Ukrainians or anti-war Russians. If they dare to show up at his events, Varoufakis has a very progressive and democratic solution: silencing and forcibly removing them.

# FREE DOM



## Russian and Ukrainian activists silenced at Greek MeRA 25 party event

Comment, Mar 10th

*Russian activist Artem Temirov writes on what he sees as a concerning trend within the Hellenic left to fall into a knee-jerk "anti-imperialism" that is in fact anything but.*

---

**Author's note:** A significant part of the Greek Left for a very long time has been plagued by narrow anti-Americanism that has replaced genuine anti-imperialism. As a result of that even supposedly more moderate voices on the Left often fell in the trap of siding, even if in a subtle way, with regimes that supposedly oppose the West, regardless of how authoritarian and oppressive they might be. This has created an increasingly widening gap between this Greek Left current and leftist dissidents that come from countries whose governments are perceived by the former as "anti-imperialist". It seems that the former are disinterested in listening to those who have come to seek refuge and avoid arrest and torture. There have even been recorded cases of representatives of the more hard-line pro-Putinist Left in Greece physically **attacked** an Iranian refugee at a public event, because the latter protested the pro-Putinist, pro-Mullah propaganda he was hearing. The case

## What happened

During the Q&A session of the event, I stood up to express my disagreement with the speakers' position. I started with an important disclaimer, saying that I am from Russia.

I expressed my belief that everything they said was bullshit and that it seemed to me they were not well-informed about the situation in Russia or Ukraine. I suggested that their sources of information were limited and that they were not interested in the opinions of real people.

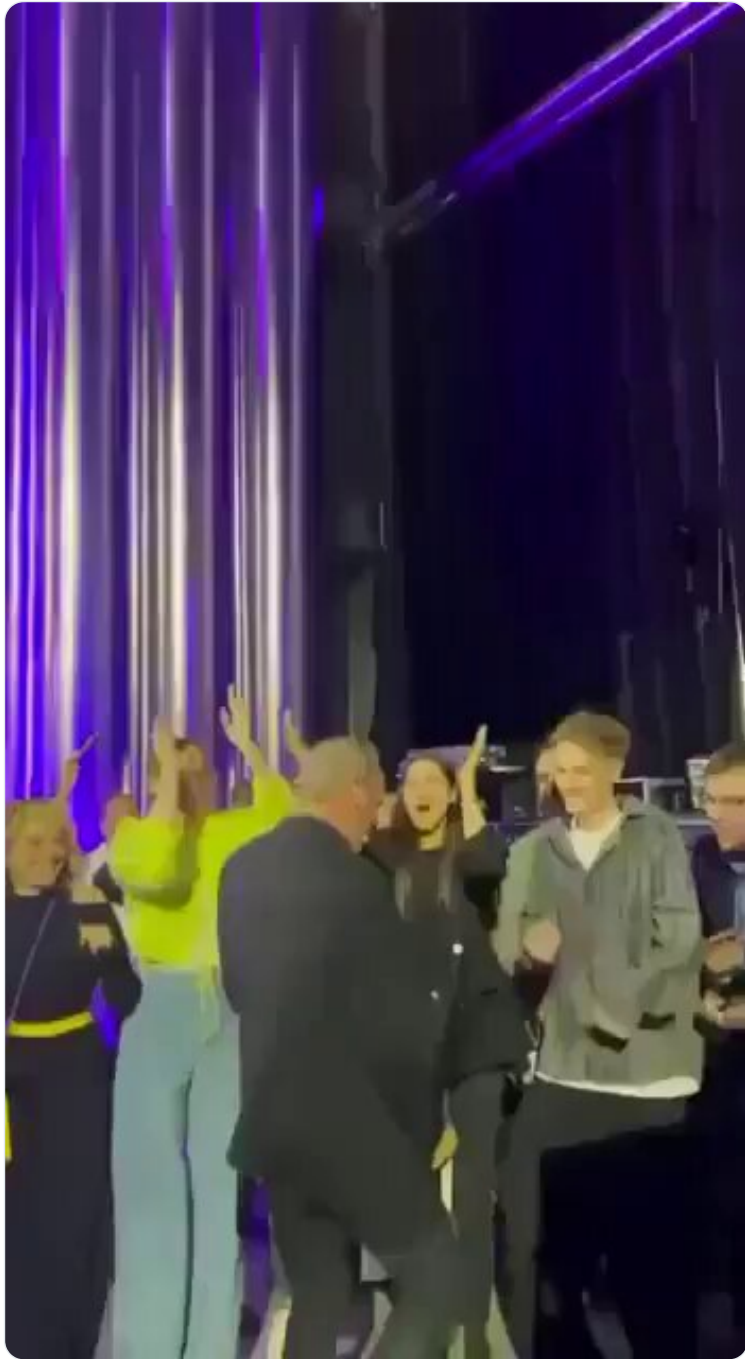
Out of all the speakers, Angela Dimitrakakis was the only one who knew my wife and I. A few days prior to the event dedicated to Solidarity with Ukraine, she had listened to our speeches and even quoted positively my wife in her own speech. Despite this, Angela interrupted me and asked, "Who are you? Who brought you here?". Although she already knew the answer to the question.

After this, Yanis Varoufakis called me a fascist, and they turned off my microphone. My wife (the only Ukrainian citizen in the hall) and I were forcibly removed from the event without being allowed to say another word.

I was surprised that there was so much resistance to hearing from two refugees from the countries that the previous two hours of discussion were focused on. On the video, it's very clear to see my willingness to apologise and tone down my emotions, but we were roughly escorted out of the room, and Yanis Varoufakis continued to shout after me that I was a fascist.

It's not very clear how a politician can accuse a stranger of fascism without bothering to find out their opinion. But as the Putin regime says in Russia, "parliament is not a place for discussion." And so this event, timed to the anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, turned out to be not a place for any alternative opinion, even when it comes from refugees from Russia and Ukraine. This is a very common strategy in discussions among conservative parties – to accuse their opponent of excessive emotionality or verbal rudeness, with the aim of depriving them of the opportunity to express their position, or with the aim of avoiding a substantive response to the position that was expressed. It is called tone-policing.

Varoufakis's descent into ruscism culminated with his travelling to Moscow, to dance and help the Kremlin with their genocidal invasion of Ukraine by confusedly blaming Europe for everything. Russia never has any agency, responsibility or alternatives according to him.



<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/2043676869069811952>



<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/2043676869069811952>

## Why I went to Moscow **Russians** are ready to compromise



**Yanis Varoufakis**

8 APR 2026 - 12:03AM 7 MINS

Fully embracing Russian imperialism, he never mentions the 2014 invasion and occupation, talking instead about “the war’s commencement” in 2022 and “disputed territories”. Russia recognized Ukraine’s borders and sovereignty without the slightest “dispute” in 1994 and 2004.



## President Vladimir Putin signed a law ratifying the Treaty between Russia and Ukraine on the Russian-Ukrainian State Border

April 23, 2004 00:00

2004

The treaty, signed in Kiev on January 28, 2003, is a framework document determining the state border between the two countries on land, including rivers and lakes, and the fundamental approach to the issues connected with the Black and Azov seas and the Kerch Strait.

The line of the state border has been mapped as a result of the joint work on the demarcation of the border carried out by the Russian and Ukrainian demarcation commissions.

The basis of the border is the administrative boundary between the RSFSR and the Ukrainian SSR at the time of the dissolution of the USSR, which is to be sealed by corresponding state legal documents.

The description of the passage of the state border and the atlas of the maps of the state border between the Russian Federation and Ukraine have been made and agreed upon, and form an inalienable part of the treaty.

Confirm the following:

**Budapest Memorandum, 1994**

- 1. The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America reaffirm their commitment to Ukraine, in accordance with the principles of the CSCE Final Act, to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine.**

Vladimir Putin interviewed by the German ARD TV channel,  
August 29, 2008



Yanis parrots all the usual Kremlin talking points, especially NATO “expansion” and Russia’s “security needs”. It’s curious that Varoufakis, a European, picks the propaganda aimed at US audiences, ignoring the “needs” of Europeans bordered by Kaliningrad and Belarus.



by focusing almost exclusively on the wrongs of NATO, critics ignore the broader question of Eastern European states' right to self-determination, including the right to join military alliances. Westsplaining ignores Eastern European history and the perspective of the Eastern Europeans, and it selectively omits facts on the ground about NATO expansion.

As much as U.S. militarism and imperialism should be criticized, it has to be acknowledged that in Eastern Europe it is not the U.S. or NATO who have been an existential threat. In the twentieth century the formative experience for the countries of the region was direct and indirect Soviet control. States like Hungary, Czechoslovakia, or Poland, although nominally independent, were not free to pursue their own policy—either domestic or foreign. Hungary and Czechoslovakia were invaded by the Soviet Union when they tried to steer off the Moscow-prescribed course. Poland's Soviet-imposed authorities brutally repressed popular protests in 1956, twice in the 1970s, and in 1981. Ukraine didn't even have the luxury of formal independence and for their opposition to forced collectivization, Ukrainians paid a dear price: Holodomor, the deliberately engineered famine, killed between three and 12 million people. Eastern European calls for NATO and EU membership stem from this historical experience of oppression. Any analysis that does not acknowledge it is doomed to be incomplete at best and false at worst.

This leads us to the second point: NATO did not *expand* into "Eastern Europe." Czechia, Poland, and Hungary in 1999 and the Baltic countries among others in 2004 actively sought membership in the alliance. This is not just semantics. For the historical reasons mentioned above, the West has been a desired political direction associated with prosperity, democracy, and freedom—despite the limitations of Western liberal capitalist democracies and the implementation of that model in Eastern Europe. Being at the receiving end of Russian imperialism, many Eastern Europeans looked forward to membership in NATO as a means of securing their sovereignty. NATO, in other words, would not have "expanded" into Eastern Europe if the Eastern European nations had not wanted it and actively pursued it.

Some pundits might argue that while this history is tragic, it is irrelevant in the grand scheme of things: Whether imaginary or not, Russia has security concerns that the West should have taken seriously. Although the parsimony of this explanation might be tempting, logically it does not hold. Implicitly, it is based on a counterfactual scenario in which NATO is not enlarged and Russia does not attack Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014 and again in 2022. It fails at the same time to consider a different counterfactual scenario: NATO enlargement does not happen, and Russia invades its neighbors nonetheless. We cannot know what would have happened.

**In the westsplaining framework, the concerns of Russia are recognized but those of Eastern Europe are not.**

In the westsplaining framework, the concerns of Russia are recognized but those of Eastern Europe are not. This, again, mirrors the Russian line that "Ukraine's current regime lacks any sovereignty," which of course also operates within a framework inherited from the bipolar world of the Cold War. Eastern Europe is something that can be explained but isn't worth engaging with.

POLITICS

## Russia claims right to deploy Kaliningrad missiles

02/07/2018

The Kremlin has stressed its sovereign right to deploy missiles on Russian territory after reports that the country deployed the Iskander nuclear-capable missile system in Kaliningrad on the Baltic Sea.



On Tuesday, Russia claimed the right to put weapons anywhere it chooses on its own territory after reports that the country had deployed nuclear-capable Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad drew criticism from its neighbors and NATO.

Kaliningrad is a Russian exclave on the Baltic Sea, and the missiles would be able to reach large parts of NATO members Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The president of Lithuania, which neighbors Kaliningrad, and a senior Russian lawmaker both said the missile systems had been deployed to the region. Russia has not confirmed the deployment.



**Yanis Varoufakis** @yanisvaroufakis · Jan 6

Respectfully, perhaps you need to pay more attention at what I have been saying for yonks:

Yes, NATO expansion, the 2014 CIA coup in Kyiv and the subsequent ban of Russian in the Donbas (a form of ethnic cleansing) were serious provocations - and, indeed, violations of International Law. Russia has legitimate reasons to be outraged at the US-EU behaviour. This is beyond dispute - as I have been saying since 2014, incurring the wrath of NATO-EU warmongers.

By the same token, however, Putin's wholesale invasion of Ukraine (Nb. he did not just invade the Donbas but he tried to take Kyiv, unsuccessfully) was also a gross violation of Int Law. BUT, Int Law FORBIDS preemptive invasions.

And now on a personal note: Being accused simultaneously of being a NATO stooge and a Putin asset gives me great pleasure in an era when we have a duty to call a spade a spade and remain non-aligned but never neutral in the face of growing, toxic militarism.



**Lit-Wit** @simonjjacobson · Jan 6

Replying to @Glenn\_Diesen

Disagree that Putin doesn't have any rationale for invading Ukraine. NATO expansionism is not simply one of his talking-points; it was increasingly an existential threat to Russia. Maybe Yanis needs to have a deeper conversation with Sachs and Mearsheimer to understand this.

521

340

1.5K

435K



**SK Media**  
@SpaggettiKozak



Hi @yanisvaroufakis, I was just wondering if you were aware that Ukraine was not joining NATO, there was no CIA coup, and Russian has never been banned in Ukraine. These seem like important facts you weren't aware of.

Of course, Putin is \*not\* ready to compromise. Varoufakis's vatnik lies serve only one purpose: shift the window of acceptability to help Russians get away with their war crimes

and conquests. Far from avoiding war, he works to push Ukraine to reward the genocidal invader.

16/20

## US intelligence indicates Putin's war aims in Ukraine are unchanged

By Jonathan Landay, Erin Banco and John Irish

December 22, 2025 10:57 AM GMT+1 · Updated December 22, 2025



REUTERS/Stringer [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)

### Summary

- US intelligence reports contradict Putin's denials of being threat to Europe
- Assessments of Russia's intentions similar to those shared by British and other European security services
- US officials plan to meet Russian representatives in Miami this weekend to continue talks

WASHINGTON/PARIS, Dec 19 (Reuters) - U.S. intelligence reports continue to warn that Russian President Vladimir Putin has not abandoned his aims of capturing all of Ukraine and reclaiming parts of Europe that belonged to the former Soviet empire, six sources familiar with U.S. intelligence said, even as negotiators seek an end to the [war](#) that would leave Russia with far less territory.

The reports present a starkly different picture from that painted by U.S. President Donald Trump and his Ukraine peace negotiators, who have said Putin wants to end the conflict. The most recent of the reports dates from late September, according to one of the sources.

The intelligence also contradicts the Russian leader's denials that he is a threat to Europe.

The U.S. findings have been consistent since [Putin](#) launched his full-scale invasion in 2022. They largely align with the views of European leaders and spy agencies that he covets all of Ukraine and territories of former Soviet bloc states, including members of the NATO alliance, according to the sources.

"The intelligence has always been that Putin wants more," Mike Quigley, a Democratic member of the House Intelligence Committee, said in a Reuters interview. "The Europeans are convinced of it. The Poles are absolutely convinced of it. The Baltics think they're first."

Kremlin officials formally rejected the possibility of a ceasefire on any terms other than the complete capitulation of Ukraine and the West on February 24, further underscoring Russia's unwillingness to make compromises during future peace negotiations. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov claimed on February 24 during a press conference in Turkey that Russia will only stop military activity in Ukraine when peace negotiations bring about a "solid, stable result that suits Russia" and account for the "realities" of the battlefield.[22] Lavrov noted that any peace agreement must include provisions banning Ukraine from joining NATO in the future.[23] Russian state media TV channel *Channel One (Pervyi Kanal)* summarized Lavrov's statements as "[Russia] will only end combat operations" when negotiations end in a way that satisfies Russia.[24] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told Russian state newswire *RIA Novosti* on February 24 that Russia will not agree to a ceasefire that does not address the "root causes" of the war.[25] Ryabkov stated that a ceasefire that does not address the war's "root causes" is a path to a "quick resumption" of the war and reiterated that Russia considers NATO's post-1991 eastward expansion a root cause of the war. Kremlin Spokesperson Dmitry Peskov also claimed on February 24 that it would be "impossible" to resolve the war in Ukraine without understanding and addressing its "root causes." [26] Kremlin officials have repeatedly alluded to the need for future peace negotiations to address the "root causes" of the war in Ukraine, which Lavrov defined in December 2024 as NATO's alleged violation of commitments not to advance eastward and "aggressive absorption" of areas near Russia's borders and the Ukrainian government's alleged discrimination against ethnic Russians within Ukraine.[27]

Russian officials also continue to frame Russia's demand for Ukrainian forces to withdraw from territory that Ukrainian forces currently control in eastern and southern Ukraine as a "compromise."

# US Made Six Peace Proposals in 2025



He also claims that Putin needs to bring home a victory to justify Russians' "sacrifices", a completely twisted approach. Putin and Russians under his orders have committed crimes that should not be encouraged — an economist should understand some basics about incentives.

To envisage this second option, a European offer of a peace and security pact, there are three prerequisites. First, the abandonment of the delusion that the offered pact should contain nothing that Putin can present as a victory. All pacts, agreements, peace deals, etc., must offer each signatory things they can present as great gains to their own constituency. Is there something that Putin can present to the Russians as **worthy of their sacrifices** during this awful war which Europe, including Ukraine, can live with? I think so. How about that, in the same way the United States can say an emphatic “No!” to the right of Mexico to deploy Chinese weaponry in Tijuana, Russia also has the right to seek security by demanding, as it has done for three decades, that Nato stay out of Georgia and Ukraine? A provision in the proposed European Peace and Security Pact that recognizes this Russian concern is not just a particularly small price to pay but also one that Europe should desire, in view of the dangerous tensions that a face-off between Russian and Nato troops within a postwar Ukraine, or indeed in Georgia, would generate.



<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/2043676966109212701>

Varoufakis still remembers his “economics” background though when it comes to justifying the self-destructive militarization of Russian society, rejoicing at how the mass production of terror weapons “energised factories that lay dormant since the end of the Soviet Union.”

≡ EL PAÍS | 50

## Russia on the edge of economic collapse after 40 months of war

The Russian economic engine is showing clear signs of exhaustion — a reality the Kremlin is beginning to acknowledge. The military-driven boom of 2023 and 2024 is now in the past



A worker works in a furnace at a steel mill in Magnitogorsk, Russia, on June 10. DONAT SOROKIN / ZUMA PRESS / CONTACTOPHOTO (DONAT SOROKIN / ZUMA PRESS / CONTACTOPHOTO)

JAVIER G. CUESTA | IGNACIO FARIZA

San Petersburgo / Madrid - JUL 07, 2025 - 16:49 CEST

Forty months is a long time in a war. Even more so for an economy already burdened by dangerous dependencies on a fossil-fuel-based world that, with luck, will be consigned to the history books within a few decades. Nearly three and a half years after [Vladimir Putin gave the order to invade Ukraine](#) — thus burning all bridges with the West — Russia is now trapped in a maze with no easy way out: sluggish growth and soaring prices, with annual increases in the double digits.

The St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, once a showcase and symbol of Russia's strength in the global market, turned a couple of weeks ago into a parade of Putinism — though not a particularly cheerful one. “We are on the brink of a recession,” admitted Economic Development Minister Maxim Reshetnikov. The reserves that had supported the country's finances in recent years, added Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina, “are depleted.”

Another 3.338 trillion rubles, according to the budget law, the government will spend under the "national security" item, which includes the budgets of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Russian National Guard, special services and the Federal Penitentiary Service. Compared to the current year, these expenses will increase by 163 billion rubles. Thus, almost 40% of the budget will be spent on security agencies in total.

To make ends meet, the government will cut spending on supporting the national economy: it will be reduced from 4.125 to 3.889 trillion rubles. Financing for education and medicine — 1.6 trillion rubles each — will be “frozen,” and in real terms — taking inflation into account — will be reduced.

Expenditures on the national project "Healthcare" are planned to be cut by 10%, from 321.3 to 289.9 billion rubles, and the sequestration will affect almost all of its subprograms. Expenditures on the federal project "Modernization of Primary Healthcare" will be reduced by 14%, to 81.64 billion rubles. The federal project "Fight Against Cancer" will shrink by 8%, to 147.4 billion rubles. Expenditures on the development of children's healthcare will be reduced by almost half - from 19.5 to 10.2 billion rubles; on the development of primary medical care - by 20%, to 7.677 billion rubles.

The national project to support small businesses will lose almost 20% of its funding (67.7 billion rubles); expenses for the federal project "Development of Infrastructure for Scientific Research" will be cut by 25% - to 47 billion rubles. Allocations for the state program "Development of the Aviation Industry" will be cut by 28% - 37.3 billion rubles. In addition, the government plans to save on supporting the regions: transfers to them from the federal budget will decrease by 4% - 1.474 trillion rubles.

Financing of state propaganda will remain at record levels: state media will receive 121.3 billion rubles from the budget against 122 billion this year. Expenditures under the item "culture and cinematography", which includes budgets for the creation of pro-war propaganda films, will increase by 11%, to 234 billion rubles.

"Everything for the front, everything for victory," said Finance Minister Anton Siluanov in September, commenting on the document. He urged not to worry that the treasury will not have enough money. "But there is enough for what is planned. A normal, healthy budget," the minister emphasized.

With his brilliant insights such as this “military Keynesianism”, and if sanctions are so good for Russia, it’s really a pity Varoufakis didn’t make his whole career there instead of Greece: he could have advised them early on to just sanction themselves into oblivion.

19/20

Four years of sanctions and war have achieved the opposite result. They rebalanced Russia’s current account, energized factories that lay dormant since the end of the Soviet Union, transferred foreign-owned companies to Russian oligarchs and kept oligarchic profits within Russia. Thus, the sanctions combined with military Keynesianism to stabilize Putin’s reign. Meanwhile, despite its impressive resistance on the battlefields, Ukraine’s economy is being steadily weakened while Europe is trapped in a geostrategic conundrum of its own making and the new oil crisis engineered by Israel and the United States.

Russia spends \$5 billion a year on propaganda to manufacture support for its invasions through vatniks and false narratives such as those spread by Varoufakis. Fact-based research

to counter it takes time and effort — please support our work:

20/20



**Fight Disinformation With Us: Support our Work | Vatnik Soup**  
Vatnik Soup: Your most comprehensive resource on pro-Kremlin disinformation and propaganda.  
<https://vatniksoup.com/en/support-our-work/>

• • •